

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INSECTS

The number of scientists interested in the investigation of problems concerning the social insects, and the variety of interests among these individuals, have increased sufficiently to create a demand for an international organization to coordinate their efforts and facilitate the study of such problems.

After a preliminary meeting at the 1951 International Congress of Entomology in Amsterdam, the organization of national branches proceeded in France, Germany, Italy, the United States, and other countries. The International Union through which these branches are now associated has its office in Paris, 105 Boulevard Raspail, at the laboratory of Dr. Pierre-P. Grassé, who is President of the international organization.

The principal objective of the International Union is to encourage the scientific study of problems concerning the social insects including all phases of their biology, ecology, taxonomy, and behavior, and to facilitate the exchange of evidence and ideas in this general field through conferences and appropriate publications. The organization will thus foster communication within a large and heterogeneous international body of scientists interested in the social insects and related forms. Previously, articles published on subjects cognate to the social insects have been scattered through a considerable number of highly diversified journals, and integration has been correspondingly limited among the interested investigators and students themselves.

An introductory *BULLETIN* of three numbers was published in France during 1953 and issued to members through the Paris office. Beginning in 1954 an illustrated journal of 320 pages entitled "Insectes Sociaux" will be published by Masson and issued in an annual volume of quarterly numbers. Subscriptions to this journal may be arranged through Stechert-Hafner, 31 East 10 Street, New York.

Two international symposia on the social insects have been sponsored by this organization and a third one is to be held in conjunction with the next International Congress of Entomology. The North

American branch sponsored symposia at the meetings of the Entomological Society of America in Philadelphia in 1952 and in Los Angeles in 1953, and further ones will be held. Comparable conferences are organized periodically by the other national branches.

Those who are seriously interested in the scientific study of problems pertaining to the social insects may apply to the Secretary of the North American branch, Dr. Robert E. Gregg, Department of Zoology, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, for membership application blanks. Members of the organization, in consideration of a modest annual dues payment, receive the "Notes and News" section of the journal.

The North American branch invites the interest of prospective members in Canada, Central America, Mexico and the United States.—T. C. SCHNEIRLA, Chairman, North American branch, I. U. S. S. I.